

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending and rejected. In this response, no claim has been canceled. Claims 8 and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 19 have been rejected because of informalities. Accordingly, claims 8 and 19 have been amended to correct the informalities.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0108381 to Elliott, et al. ("Elliott"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,431,288 to Nishijima, et al., ("Nishijima"). Claims 9-11 and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Elliott as modified by Nishijima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,832,726 to Torchalski ("Torchalski"). Applicant hereby reserves the right to swear behind Torchalski.

It is respectfully submitted that Elliott is pending and Elliott has been assigned to a common assignee of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time of the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. As a result, Elliott is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

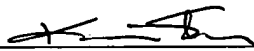
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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